

2. (Amended) A ceramic heater comprising:

a ceramic substrate, on a surface of which or inside which, a heating element pattern is formed,

wherein said ceramic heater is constituted to have a structure such that a face of said ceramic substrate on which no heating element is formed or one face of said ceramic substrate is made to be a heating surface,

a convex body or a convex portion is formed on the surface of said ceramic substrate, and

an object to be heated can be held apart from said heating surface and heated.

Please add the following new claims:

15. (New) The ceramic heater according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

a through hole, in which a supporting pin configured to hold the object to be heated is passed through, is formed in said ceramic substrate.

16. (New) The ceramic heater according to any of claim 1 or 2, wherein said convex body or said convex portion is configured to hold the object to be heated 5 to 5000 μm apart from the surface or the heating surface of said ceramic substrate.

17. (New) The ceramic heater according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said ceramic substrate comprises at least one of nitride ceramics, carbide ceramics, and oxide ceramics.

18. (New) The ceramic heater according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said ceramic substrate comprises impurity elements or sintering aids.

19. (New) The ceramic heater according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said ceramic substrate comprises a rare earth element oxide.

20. (New) The ceramic heater according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said ceramic substrate comprises 0.1 to 10% by weight of sintering aids.

21. (New) The ceramic heater according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said ceramic substrate comprises yttrium.

22. (New) The ceramic heater according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said ceramic substrate comprises 200 to 5000 ppm of carbon.

23. (New) The ceramic heater according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said ceramic heater is configured to be used at a temperature of 100 °C or higher.

24. (New) The ceramic heater according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said ceramic heater is configured to be used at a temperature of 200°C or higher.

25. (New) The ceramic heater according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said heating element pattern comprises a metal foil or a metal wire.

26. (New) The ceramic heater according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said heating element pattern comprises metal particles or a conductive ceramic.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the present supplemental amendment and the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 15-26 are presently active in this application, Claims 3-14 having been canceled, and Claims 15-26 having been added by the present amendment.

In the Official Action Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawanabe et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,133,557) in view of Muka (U.S. Pat. No. 5,854,468) or Tamagawa et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,777,838).